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Serial No.: 10/538,156
Office Action dated: 08/26/08
Response dated: 11/11/08

PATENT
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Listing and Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~determining and displaying the status of a user-selectable parameter associated with a song stored in~~ information using a digital audio player, comprising the steps of:
 - ~~reading a preference table from a mass storage device associated with the digital audio player during a startup operation of the digital audio player, the preference table including an entry for each selected song stored in the mass storage device, each entry including a unique identifier associated with the selected song and parameter data indicative of the status of the user-selectable parameter;~~
 - ~~reading a playlist selected by the user;~~
 - ~~displaying one or more entries included in the selected playlist on a display device associated with the multi-track audio player;~~
 - ~~determining one or more unique identifiers associated with each entry included in the selected playlist;~~
 - ~~comparing the determined unique identifiers with the unique identifiers included in the preference table to determine states of the selectable parameter associated with the entries in the selected playlist;~~
 - ~~displaying the determined states of the selectable parameter with associated selected playlist entries on the display device~~
 - reading a playlist selected by a user;
 - enabling a display of one or more entries included in said playlist on a display device associated with said digital audio player, each of said one or more entries corresponding to one of a single song and a plurality of songs and having a visual indicator that indicates whether a user-selectable parameter associated with said entry is in one of a first state, a second state and a third state, and wherein:
 - said user-selectable parameter is in said first state if said entry corresponds to said single song and said single song has been selected by the user;
 - said user-selectable parameter is in said first state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and all of said plurality of songs have been selected by the user;

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said user selectable parameter is in said second state if said entry corresponds to said single song and said single song has not been selected by the user;

said user selectable parameter is in said second state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and none of said plurality of songs have been selected by the user; and

said user selectable parameter is in said third state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and at least one, but not all, of said plurality of songs has been selected by the user.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the parameter data represents the status of at least 3 user selectable parameters, including whether the entry is tagged to be included in a playlist, whether each of~~ said plurality of songs is represented in a preference table and includes a data setting indicating that either the song is liked, and whether or the song is disliked.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of updating the preference table each time the user indicates whether ~~a selected song is to be tagged, indicated to be liked, or indicated to be disliked~~ one of said plurality of songs is liked or disliked.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of storing the updated preference table in ~~the mass a~~ a storage device of the digital audio player during a shutdown operation of the digital audio player.

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5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each ~~preference table entry includes playlist identification data that includes path information for locating a selected song on the mass storage device~~ if said one or more entries correspond to said plurality of songs, said one or more entries correspond to an artist.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each ~~unique identifier included in the preference table is generated using a hash function~~ if said one or more entries correspond to said plurality of songs, said one or more entries correspond to an album.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a playlist sequence using parameter data indicating whether ~~a song is liked or whether a song is~~ one of said plurality of songs is liked or disliked, in response to user selection of a shuffle playmode.

8. (currently amended) A ~~portable hand-held~~ digital audio player, comprising:

a mass storage device;

~~a~~ user input device for allowing a user to select a playlist for display and ~~select a state of a user-selectable parameter associated with a song stored on the mass storage device;~~

a display device; and

a controller coupled to the mass storage device, the user input device, and the display device, the controller ~~generating a preference table in response to user selection of the state of the user-selectable parameter, storing the preference table to the mass storage device during a shut down operation of the digital audio player, and reading the preference table from the mass storage device during a startup operation of the digital audio player, wherein the preference table includes an entry for each selected song stored in the mass storage device, each entry including a unique identifier associated with the selected song and parameter data indicate of the status of the user-selectable parameter,~~

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~~the controller determining one or more unique identifiers associated entries in a playlist in response to user selection of the playlist, comparing the determining one or more unique identifiers with the unique identifiers in the preference table, determining the status of the selectable parameters in response to the comparison, and causing the display device to display one or more of the entries in the playlist with the status of the user selectable parameter associated with the entries being~~
operative to read said playlist selected by the user from said storage device and enable a display of one or more entries included in said playlist on said display device, each of said one or more entries corresponding to one of a single song and a plurality of songs and having a visual indicator that indicates whether a user selectable parameter associated with said entry is in one of a first state, a second state and a third state, and wherein:

said user selectable parameter is in said first state if said entry corresponds to said single song and said single song has been selected by the user;

said user selectable parameter is in said first state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and all of said plurality of songs have been selected by the user;

said user selectable parameter is in said second state if said entry corresponds to said single song and said single song has not been selected by the user;

said user selectable parameter is in said second state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and none of said plurality of songs have been selected by the user; and

said user selectable parameter is in said third state if said entry corresponds to said plurality of songs and at least one, but not all, of said plurality of songs has been selected by the user.

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9. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 8, wherein ~~the parameter data represents the status of at least 3 user selectable parameters, including whether the entry is tagged to be included in a playlist, whether each of said plurality of songs is represented in a preference table in said storage device and includes a data setting indicating that either the song is liked, and whether or the song is disliked.~~

10. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 9[()], wherein the controller updates the preference table each time the user indicates whether ~~a selected song is to be tagged, indicated to be liked, or indicated to be disliked~~ one of said plurality of songs is liked or disliked.

11. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 10, wherein the controller stores the updated preference table in the ~~mass~~ storage device during a shutdown operation of the digital audio player.

12. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 8, wherein ~~each preference table entry includes playlist identification data that includes path information for locating a selected song on the mass storage device if said one or more entries correspond to said plurality of songs, said one or more entries correspond to an artist.~~

13. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 8, wherein ~~each unique identifier included in the preference table is generated using a hash function if said one or more entries correspond to said plurality of songs, said one or more entries correspond to an album.~~

14. (currently amended) The digital audio player according to claim 8, wherein the controller generates a playlist sequence using parameter data indicating whether ~~a song is liked or whether a song is one of said plurality of songs is liked or disliked, in response to user selection of a shuffle playmode.~~